Ratio of Judges *vis-a-vis* pending cases

†1066. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ratio of number of Judges and pending cases in High Courts is much more than the ratio of Supreme Court and District Courts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any concrete plan to dispose of the large number of pending cases in the High Courts in the country; and

(d) if so, the salient features of the same?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

The approximate ratio of number of Judges and pending cases in High Court, Supreme Court and District Courts is 5307, 833 and 1661 respectively.

(b) The problem of pendency of cases in High Courts is arising due to various complex factors. These include vacant posts of judges, increase in the institution of cases on account of awareness of rights on the part of the citizens; enactment of numerous laws creating new rights and obligations, industrial development in the country and increased trade and commerce and emergence of socio-economic measures (legislative and administrative), touching the life of the citizens at all levels, population explosion, lawyers' strike etc.

(c) and (d) All the High Courts have been requested to follow the steps taken by the Supreme Court such as more practical categorisation and grouping of cases, to take up for hearing all the cases listed for the particular day as far as possible, non-accumulation of defective matters, reservation of more and sufficient time slot for old pending cases in chronological order and streamlining of administration and manpower of the registry through computer network, for bringing down the pendency. The High Courts have favourably responded.

Efforts are being made with the help of the Chief Justice of India and the Chief Justices of the High Courts to fill up all vacant posts of judges in the High Courts to expedite disposal of pending cases.

Changes in the rules as per amended constitution

†1067. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the State Governments have changed their rules according to the amended Constitution for Panchayats and Scheduled Areas under the Act notified in the Gazette of India on 24th December, 1996;

(b) whether the implementation of the Act has been reviewed;

(c) the name of the States which have not revised the outdated rules, so far; and

(d) what action Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Vacancy of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court

1068. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of Judges in the High Courts and Supreme Court at present;

(b) by when these are likely to be filled up;

(c) whether Government have decided to reserve some posts of Judges for the persons belonging to SC/ST and OBC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) As on 1st March, 2001 the vacancy position in respect of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and in the High Courts was as follows:

Supreme Court of India	:	02
High Courts	:	183

The filling up of vacancies in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts is a consultative process among the Constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges. It is not possible to indicate the exact time by which the vacant posts are likely to be filled up.

(c) and (d) Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts is made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India